

Request for Reconsideration after Final Action

The table below presents the data as entered.

Input Field	Entered
SERIAL NUMBER	87330497
LAW OFFICE ASSIGNED	LAW OFFICE 113
MARK SECTION	
MARK	https://tmng-al.uspto.gov/resting2/api/img/87330497/large
LITERAL ELEMENT	FLORIDIAN ROD AND GUN CLUB ON LAKE OKEECHOBEE
STANDARD CHARACTERS	YES
USPTO-GENERATED IMAGE	YES
MARK STATEMENT	The mark consists of standard characters, without claim to any particular font style, size or color.
ARGUMENT(S)	
Please see the actual argument text attached within the Evidence section.	
EVIDENCE SECTION	
EVIDENCE FILE NAME(S)	
ORIGINAL PDF FILE	evi_20422723018-20180529173502219242_. Request for Reconsideration.pdf
CONVERTED PDF FILE(S) (6 pages)	\\TICRS\EXPORT17\IMAGEOUT17\873\304\87330497\xml7\RFR0002.JPG
	\\TICRS\EXPORT17\IMAGEOUT17\873\304\87330497\xml7\RFR0003.JPG
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ORIGINAL PDF FILE	evi_20422723018-20180529173502219242_. Evidence.pdf
CONVERTED PDF FILE(S) (55 pages)	\\TICRS\EXPORT17\IMAGEOUT17\873\304\87330497\xml7\RFR0008.JPG
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	\\TICRS\EXPORT17\IMAGEOUT17\873\304\87330497\xml7\RFR0062.JPG
DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE FILE	third party news articles using the word "FLORIDIAN" to suggest style and luxury
SIGNATURE SECTION	
RESPONSE SIGNATURE	/Sam E. Iverson/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Sam E. Iverson
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Attorney of record, California bar member
SIGNATORY'S PHONE NUMBER	415-983-1234
DATE SIGNED	05/29/2018
AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY	YES
CONCURRENT APPEAL NOTICE FILED	NO
FILING INFORMATION SECTION	
SUBMIT DATE	Tue May 29 17:47:26 EDT 2018
TEAS STAMP	USPTO/RFR-XXX.XXX.XXX.XX- 20180529174726051285-8733 0497-61097326a5eefc115c14 fb74794f96328862163fb369c 4eacd678e3bca773f-N/A-N/A -20180529173502219242

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PTO Form 1960 (Rev 10/2011)

OMB No. 0651-0050 (Exp 09/20/2020)

Request for Reconsideration after Final Action

To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

Application serial no. **87330497** FLORIDIAN ROD AND GUN CLUB ON LAKE OKEECHOBEE(Standard Characters, see <https://tmng-al.uspto.gov/resting2/api/img/87330497/large>) has been amended as follows:

ARGUMENT(S)

In response to the substantive refusal(s), please note the following:

Please see the actual argument text attached within the Evidence section.

EVIDENCE

Evidence in the nature of third party news articles using the word "FLORIDIAN" to suggest style and luxury has been attached.

Original PDF file:

[evi_20422723018-20180529173502219242_. Request for Reconsideration.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (6 pages)

[Evidence-1](#)

[Evidence-2](#)

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[Evidence-55](#)

SIGNATURE(S)

Request for Reconsideration Signature

Signature: /Sam E. Iverson/ Date: 05/29/2018

Signatory's Name: Sam E. Iverson

Signatory's Position: Attorney of record, California bar member

Signatory's Phone Number: 415-983-1234

The signatory has confirmed that he/she is an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a U.S. state, which includes the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other federal territories and possessions; and he/she is currently the owner's/holder's attorney or an associate thereof; and to the best of his/her knowledge, if prior to his/her appointment another U.S. attorney or a Canadian attorney/agent not currently associated with his/her company/firm previously represented the owner/holder in this matter: (1) the owner/holder has filed or is concurrently filing a signed revocation of or substitute power of attorney with the USPTO; (2) the USPTO has granted the request of the prior representative to withdraw; (3) the owner/holder has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her in this matter; or (4) the owner's/holder's appointed U.S. attorney or Canadian attorney/agent has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her as an associate attorney in this matter.

The applicant is not filing a Notice of Appeal in conjunction with this Request for Reconsideration.

Serial Number: 87330497

Internet Transmission Date: Tue May 29 17:47:26 EDT 2018

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/RFR-XXX.XXX.XXX.XX-201805291747260

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: BIG CEDAR, L.L.C.)
)
Mark: FLORIDIAN ROD AND GUN) Examiner: Ty Murray
 CLUB ON LAKE)
 OKEECHOBEE) Law Office: 113
)
Serial No.: 87/330497)
)
_____)

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

This Request for Reconsideration is being filed simultaneously with an Appeal of the Final Refusal.

I. Summary

With additional evidence and argument, Applicant contends that applicant's mark FLORIDIAN ROD AND GUN CLUB ON LAKE OKEECHOBEE ("Applicant's Mark") is not primarily geographically descriptive of the origin of Applicant's services, as the Examining Attorney has failed to prove that the wording in Applicant's Mark denotes a generally known geographic location, and to the contrary, the primary significance of Applicant's Mark suggests a stylish or luxurious resort or club.

II. Arguments

To establish a prima facie case for refusal to register a mark as primarily geographically descriptive, the Examining Attorney must show that:

- (1) the primary significance of the mark is a generally known geographic location;
- (2) the goods or services originate in the place identified in the mark; and
- (3) purchasers would be likely to believe that the goods or services originate in the geographic place identified in the mark.

TMEP 1210.01(a); see *In re Newbridge Cutlery Co.*, 776 F.3d 854, 113 USPQ2d 1445 (Fed. Cir. 2015) (finding evidence insufficient to establish that Newbridge, Ireland is a place known generally to the relevant American public); *In re Societe Generale des Eaux Minerales de Vittel S.A.*, 824 F.2d 957, 3 USPQ2d 1450 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (evidence insufficient to establish that public in United States would perceive VITTEL as the name of a place where cosmetic products originate; Vittel, France found to be obscure).

A. The Examining Attorney's Evidence Does Not Prove that Lake Okeechobee is a Generally Known Geographic Location

As evidence to support the claim that Lake Okeechobee is a well-known tourist destination, the Examining Attorney submitted screenshots from Hotels.com listing hotels located in Lake Okeechobee and from TripAdvisor.com regarding “Things to Do in Okeechobee.” While these screenshots show that there are hotels and activities around the area of Okeechobee, hotels and activities can be found virtually anywhere around the world and the screenshots do not provide any other proof that Okeechobee is a popular destination and generally known among the relevant public. As such, these screenshots are inadequate to prove that Lake Okeechobee is a generally known geographic location.

The Examining Attorney also submitted screenshots from several third party websites describing Lake Okeechobee as “world renowned” or “world famous” for bass fishing. These websites, however, are run by local tour operators, so their statements are self-serving, based on their own subjective views in order to attract business, and they do not provide objective proof that Lake Okeechobee is a generally known geographic location.

Previously, the Examining Attorney submitted as evidence a Wikipedia article describing the size and geographic location of Lake Okeechobee, yet such information fails to demonstrate that Lake Okeechobee is widely populated or a popular travel destination.

When it is not clear on its face that the primary significance of the mark is that of a geographic location, the record must include substantial evidence to support a conclusion that the mark identifies a place "known generally to the relevant American public." *See In re Newbridge Cutlery*, 776 F.3d at 862, 113 USPQ2d at 1450. A description of the place on the internet does not necessarily evidence that a place is generally known to the relevant American consuming public. *Id.* at 863, 113 USPQ2d at 1450.

Here, because the Examining Attorney's evidence lacks any credible, objective proof that Lake Okeechobee is a well-populated area, a popular tourist destination, or otherwise generally known to the relevant American public, the Examining Attorney has failed to prove with sufficient evidence that the primary significance of Applicant's Mark is a generally known geographic location under §2(e)(2).

B. The Examiner Wrongly Claims that Applicant Conceded the Wording is Geographically Descriptive

Furthermore, the Examining Attorney wrongly argues that "the applicant has already conceded that the wording LAKE OKEECHOBEE is geographically descriptive when used with resort hotel services" given that "the applicant disclaimed the term LAKE OKEECHOBEE because it was geographically descriptive [in Application Number 87330476]." The Examining Attorney's argument, however, is erroneous and should be disregarded for two key reasons.

First, there is no legal support for claiming that a disclaimer of wording in one application constitutes a concession that the same wording lacks distinctiveness in a separate application. To the contrary, the Trademark Act provides that "[n]o disclaimer . . . shall prejudice or affect the applicant's or registrant's rights then existing or thereafter arising in the disclaimed matter, or his right of registration on another application if the disclaimed matter be or shall have become distinctive of his goods or services." 15 U.S.C. §1056(b). As such, it is

clear that, aside from generic matter, disclaimed matter is not forever barred from registration, and it can subsequently be considered for registration on either the Principal Register or the Supplemental Register. TMEP 1213.11; *see Quaker Oil Corp. v. Quaker State Oil Ref. Corp.*, 161 USPQ 547, 549 (TTAB 1969), *aff'd*, 453 F.2d 1296, 172 USPQ 361 (C.C.P.A. 1972).

Second, even assuming Applicant disclaimed the wording “LAKE OKEECHOBEE ROD AND GUN CLUB” in a separate application, there is nothing in the record proving that Applicant disclaimed the wording specifically because it was geographically descriptive. Applicant did not give a reason for entering the disclaimer and could have disclaimed the wording for any number of reasons, including for instance to simply avoid the costs of arguing against the disclaimer. Therefore, the Examining Attorney has no basis for claiming that Applicant disclaimed the wording because it was geographically descriptive, and the argument that Applicant has conceded the wording is geographically descriptive based on a disclaimer in a separate application should not be considered.

C. The Primary Significance of Applicant’s Mark is Not a Generally Known Geographic Location

If the most prominent meaning or significance of the mark is not geographic, or if the mark creates a separate readily understood meaning that is not geographic, registration must not be refused under §2(e)(2). *See In re Newbridge Cutlery*, 776 F.3d at 862, 113 USPQ2d at 1450 (finding it less likely that Newbridge (a town in Ireland) is generally known as the name of a place given its other meanings); *Hyde Park Clothes, Inc. v. Hyde Park Fashions, Inc.*, 93 USPQ 250 (S.D.N.Y. 1951) (holding that the primary significance of HYDE PARK for men’s suits is to suggest that the product is stylish or of high quality rather than to provide information about geographic origin), *aff’d*, 204 F.2d 223, 97 USPQ 246 (2d Cir. 1953).

For example, in *In re Morinaga Nyugyo Kabushiki Kaisha*, the Board reversed a §2(e)(3) refusal of a mark containing the wording MT. RAINIER THE MOUNTAIN OF SEATTLE ESPRESSO & MILK, noting that "[w]hile there is no doubt that the term SEATTLE identifies a generally known geographic location, as it is used in the context of Applicant's mark, we do not find that the relevant public would consider it to indicate of the origin of the goods." 120 USPQ2d 1738 (TTAB 2016). The Board observed that, "[u]nder the first prong of the test – whether the mark's primary significance is a generally known geographic location – a composite mark such as the applicant's proposed mark must be evaluated as a whole." *Id.* (quoting *In re Save Venice New York Inc.*, 259 F.3d 1346, 59 USPQ2d 1778, 1782 (Fed. Cir. 2001)). The same principle applies here.

The first and dominant portion of Applicant's Mark is FLORIDIAN ROD AND GUN CLUB. The word "FLORIDIAN", in particular, is a nebulous word, which can suggest style, luxury and high society living. For example, attached is a representative selection of news articles using the word "FLORIDIAN" to refer to stylish or luxurious living. When viewed as a whole, taking into consideration that the first portion of the mark is usually given greater weight in the overall impression, Applicant's Mark will be understood as suggesting a stylish or luxurious resort or club. As a result, the primary significance of Applicant's Mark is not geographic.

III. Conclusion

As Applicant has established, the primary significance of Applicant's Mark, when viewed as a whole but placing emphasis on the first portion FLORIDIAN ROD AND GUN CLUB, suggests a stylish or luxurious resort or club. Furthermore, the Examining Attorney has failed to prove with credible, objective evidence that the wording LAKE OKEECHOBEE in the

mark is a generally known geographic location. Therefore, Applicant's Mark is not primarily geographically descriptive, the §2(e)(2) refusal should be withdrawn, and Applicant's Mark should be allowed for registration on the Principal Register.

Forbes / Lifestyle

NOV 19, 2014 @ 05:08 PM 2,271

The Little Black Book of Billionaire Secrets

Could This be New York's New 'It' Burger?



Jenny Nguyen, CONTRIBUTOR

[FULL BIO](#) ▾

Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.

If taste and merit alone were enough to bring the burger at [The Happiest Hour](#), a new West Village cocktail hotspot into 'it' burger stardom then I'll happily go down on record as the person who said it first – this burger is definitely *'it'* in NYC.

Co-owned by Acme, NoMad and Pegu Club veterans Jon Neidich and Jim Kearns, their aim was to bring us back to a bygone era where the mood in America was optimistic and when leisure-time kicked off at 5 o'clock. The theme carries throughout the bar in the mid-century Floridian style interiors, the drinks and the menu, which houses that memorable burger, so aptly dubbed as "The Happiest Burger."

Make no mistake - this burger was no accident. Speaking to Neidich, I discover that the pair had embarked on months of rigorous burger eating research prior to developing the recipe. Taking inspiration from the best elements of the best modern day burgers, they knew they also wanted to keep within the mid-century tone and

create the ultimate moment of burger nostalgia in a single bite – Mission accomplished.


Somewhere between the Martin's potato roll, the perfectly sized grass-fed patties layered with confit onions, pickles, lettuce and tomato, you'll also begin to notice some pretty distinct old-school references being made. Chef Thomas Lim has paid gourmet secret sauce homage to America's beloved Big Mac sauce as well as an ode to the ooze and the softness of the all-American Cheeseburger.

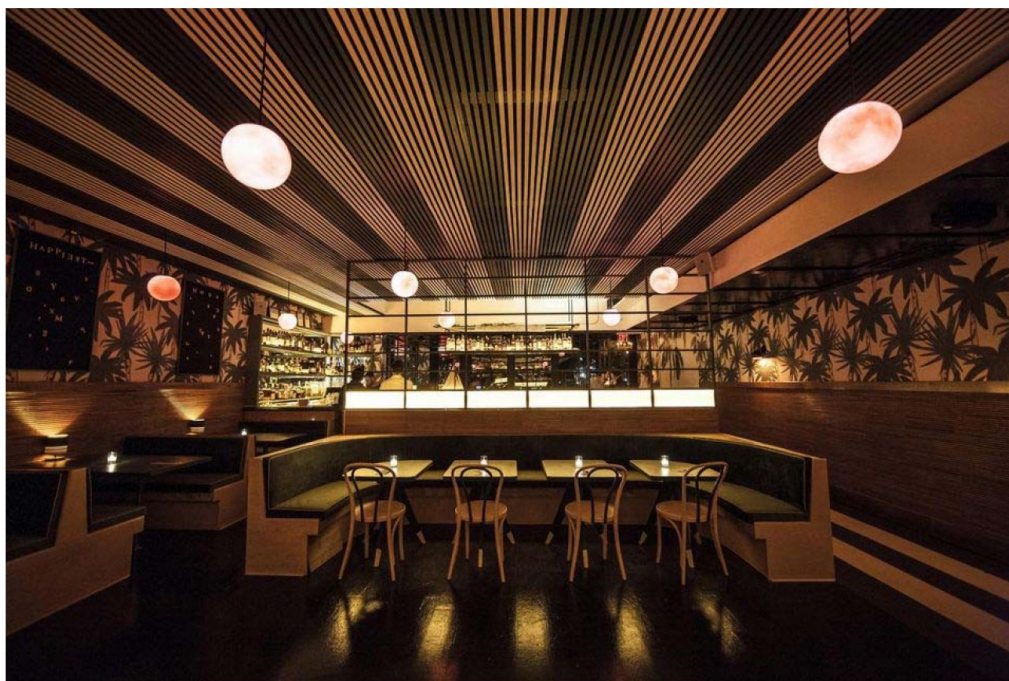
All this can be enjoyed alongside music from the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles and Gladys Knight giving the youthful, spirited experience at The Happiest Hour some old-timey refinement.

Get there before it really does become an 'it' burger.

<http://www.happiesthournyc.com/>

121 W 10th St, New York, NY 10011

(212) 243-2827 





(All photos by Zandy Mangold, Courtesy of Hanna Lee Communications, Inc)

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Bainbridge Companies opens 240-unit apartment complex in Tampa's Ybor City

by: [Business Observer Staff](#)

TAMPA — Bainbridge Ybor City, at 1512 E. 12th Ave., in the Ybor City National Historic Landmark District, opened its doors to potential residents Nov. 30.

The 240-unit apartment complex was developed by Bainbridge Companies, which owns, develops and manages luxury multifamily communities in the eastern United States.

The community offers a live-work-play lifestyle designed to attract millennial renters, according to a statement. “The apartment market in the Tampa area is healthy and robust, and it features a strong demand for modern communities in highly walkable settings that allow residents to live, work and play in one area,” states Tom Keady, president of the Bainbridge Companies, in a press release. “Bainbridge Ybor City fits that description perfectly.”

Amenities at the four-story Bainbridge Ybor City — which offers one- and two-bedroom apartment homes — include a swimming pool surrounded by a sundeck; a 24-hour fitness center with cardio, yoga space and a private training room; covered garage parking; and a resident clubroom and lounge with an arcade game table and a bar area.

“We have designed Bainbridge Ybor City to reflect the energetic characteristics of the surrounding neighborhood and its history,” states Bob Thollander, Bainbridge's vice president of development for the Florida region, in the release. “The floor plans, modern color schemes, patios and balconies highlight the essence of Floridian style, yet with an urban, cutting-edge flair. The numerous socializing areas make this a modern-day paradise for millennials and young renters.”

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Mild season: rooms are given a restrained Floridian style

Younger guests receive a warm welcome with their own room key cards, gift and rucksack adorned with the resort's mascot, Gary the Gator.

AOIFE O' RIORDAIN

Friday 1 May 2015 10:17 BST

Love or loathe Disney's most durable creation, there comes a point in many parents' lives when the magic of the mouse is hard to avoid. But the prospect of checking into the Four Seasons Resort Orlando might persuade even the most Mickey-averse to pack their bags.

Four Seasons' founding father, Isadore Sharp, long aspired to add Walt Disney World to

the hotel group's portfolio. After 15 years of planning, his dream became a reality last August. The place has found favour among celebrities on the run: during my stay, I spied Sir Paul McCartney beside the large family pool.

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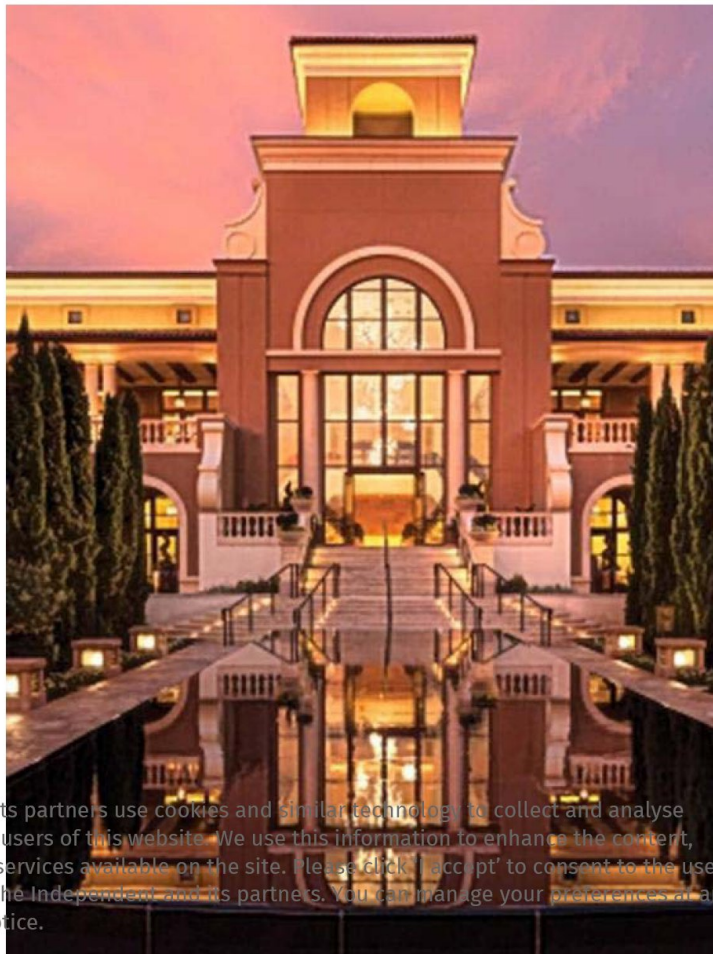
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The Walt Disney World Resort is almost twice the size of Manhattan. The Four Seasons is within this hallowed turf – the only non-Disney hotel afforded the privilege.

It's suitably vast, with 443 rooms filling a 17-storey Spanish Revival-style building. Entering the reception area you are greeted by a sweeping staircase presided over by a huge chandelier designed to resemble The Magic Kingdom's nightly fireworks display. Younger guests receive a warm welcome with their own room key cards, gift and rucksack adorned with the resort's mascot, Gary the Gator.

The resort's Adventure Island is the stuff of most childhood fantasies – a splash zone with spouting geysers, two water slides and a lazy river. There's plenty of shade from the skin-toasting sun with cocoon-like day beds and cute tepees fringing the water. There is also an outdoor cinema, a video games room, a playground and kids' club. But there are also shady gardens, an over-21s pool, a gym with free yoga and a spa for anyone seeking a more grown-up ambience. This being the Sunshine State, there is also the obligatory 18-hole golf course.



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Mild season: rooms are given a restrained Floridian style

Most guests will probably stay put for dinner and there are enough options to mix things up a bit, during the average six-night stay. The rooftop Spanish Capa restaurant has tapas-inspired dishes and steaks. The Ravello restaurant serves pizzas and other Italian fare for lunch and dinner, succumbing to chaos twice a week when Mickey, Minnie and Pluto make their rounds during the official Character Breakfast. There's also the Ravello lounge, the poolside PB+G serving salads and barbecue grills during the day and the Cuban-inspired Plancha restaurant at the Golf Club. One welcome innovation is the Lickety Split café, which serves bagels, sandwiches, salads, coffee and homemade ice cream until late afternoon.

If you were anywhere else you might just stay put, but the theme parks beckon. One revelation for the Disney rookie is the organisation involved to get the most out of a visit. Help comes at the Official Disney Planning Centre in the hotel's main reception area – invaluable for anyone who has come unprepared.

Following a sticky day at The Magic Kingdom, I longed for the tranquillity and uncrowded spaces of the hotel. If your budget can stretch to it, the Four Seasons is the luxurious way to experience Walt Disney World. You'll often pay five-star prices at Disney hotels without the level of sophistication and service that the Four Seasons offers, so having somewhere of this standard to retreat to is worth the investment.

Location

The Four Seasons is set in a tranquil enclave of villas called Golden Oaks. The Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney's Animal Kingdom and Disney's Hollywood Studios are a 20- to 30-minute drive from the hotel. There is a regular shuttle service to the parks, but if you miss this and don't have a car you need to rely on taxis. It's about 30 minutes' drive from Orlando's main airport.

Comfort

There are 375 rooms and 68 suites decorated in a restrained Floridian style, with geometric prints, browns, taupes and splashes of lime, coral and turquoise. Most rooms have an extra sofa bed for families and bathrooms are wall-to-wall marble. If you request a Park View room higher up the building, you will have a good vantage point for the nightly fireworks display at the Magic Kingdom. There are bedside iPads as well as free

wi-fi and a TV with all the Disney Channels to prolong the Mickeymania. I accept
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Four Seasons Orlando at Walt Disney World Resort, 10100 Dream Tree Boulevard, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, US (001 407 313 7777; fourseasons.com).

Rooms ****

Value ***

Service *****

Doubles from \$645 (£410) per night, room only.

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HGTV Dream Home 2016 Giveaway Now Open for Entries

Fans can enter twice a day for a chance to win first ever dream remodel located on Merritt Island, Florida

Dec 29, 2015, 08:58 ET from Scripps Networks Interactive



The HGTV Dream Home 2016 Giveaway is open for entries through February 18, 2016. For a chance to win, fans can enter twice daily via hgtv.com/hgtvdreamhome. The prize package, valued at \$1.5 million, includes the newly remodeled and fully ...

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KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 29, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- Starting today and continuing through 5 p.m. ET Thursday, February 18, 2016, viewers can start dreaming about moving into the HGTV® Dream Home Giveaway on Merritt Island, Florida. Fans can enter twice a day by visiting hgtv.com/hgtvdreamhome for their chance to win the grand prize package valued at more than \$1.5 million. New this year, fans will enjoy one bonus entry into the giveaway via realtor.com®. Eligible U.S. residents can log on to hgtv.com for full details and the official rules.



In addition to the approximately 3,150-square-foot residence and all its furnishings, the grand prize package includes the keys to a 2016 GMC Acadia Denali® and a beautiful new boat, as well as \$250,000 from national mortgage lender Quicken Loans®.

Over the summer, architects, contractors and designers have been busy with an incredible home transformation on the sunny coast of Florida to bring fans the first ever HGTV® Dream Home Giveaway renovation. The waterfront property is shaded by giant royal palm trees and situated on the Indian River Lagoon with Intracoastal Waterway access. The updated, transitional take on Floridian style offers casual elegance with a clever play on classic coastal. The light and bright paradise is built for entertaining and relaxing by the water, complete with a private pool and a three-car garage. With three bedrooms and five bathrooms, the home's decor blends the sophistication of the Hamptons with punches of tropical vibrancy.

"Deciding to remodel an existing home for our 20th HGTV Dream Home Giveaway provided a challenge, knowing the expectations our viewers have for these homes," said Ron Feinbaum, General Manager and SVP of Home Promotions for Scripps Networks Interactive. "Working with interior designer Brian Patrick Flynn, architect Michael Stauffer and builder Steven Price of Steven W. Price Construction, we were able to transform this existing home into a dream residence with ideas and trends that our fans can use in their own homes."

From a stunning coastline of endless sandy beaches to beautiful sunrises and sunsets, the HGTV Dream Home 2016 location is as spectacular as the first 19 HGTV Dream Homes. Learn more about this year's giveaway and its sponsors – General Motors LLC, Lumber Liquidators Inc., GLIDDEN® paint brand, Quicken Loans Inc., Bush Brothers & Company, Cabinets To Go, Delta Faucet, JELD-WEN Windows & Doors, Mars Petcare, Trex Company Inc., Belgard, Ethan Allen Global Inc., realtor.com® and Bose Corporation – at hgtv.com/hgtvdreamhome.

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Hockey Legend and Tampa Bay Lightning GM Steve Yzerman Selling in Tampa

realtor.com® Luke Stangel · Realtor.com · November 17, 2016



Bruce Bennett/Getty Images

Popular in the Community

Steve Yzerman—a Hockey Hall of Famer, Olympic gold medalist, and legendary former **Detroit Red Wings** captain—is putting his 6,265-square-foot Florida mansion on the market for a cool \$3.6 million.

Yzerman, arguably the most beloved athlete in Detroit, brought home three Stanley Cups over his 23-season career with the team. He was named the general manager of the **Tampa Bay Lightning** in 2010.

The Mediterranean-style mansion he's listing in [Tampa's Davis Islands](#) neighborhood was built in 2007 and has five bathrooms and two half-baths on a quarter-acre waterfront lot.

Caps blank Lightning, return to finals after 20 years

This Photo Has Not Been Edited, Look Closer

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Exterior
realtor.com

The property perfectly captures tropical Floridian luxury, with large palm trees and a meticulously landscaped lawn and yard. Double arched doors open to a marble entryway with an inlaid stone medallion. There's custom woodwork and vaulted ceilings in every room. The dining room has an octagonal tray ceiling and separate wet bar.

The home's lower level has a temperature-controlled wine cellar just a few steps from the large chef's kitchen. The kitchen features a wraparound breakfast bar, separate island, stainless-steel appliances, commercial-style range and custom range hood, full backsplash, butler's pantry, and custom cabinetry.



Kitchen
realtor.com



Dining room



A look at Bruins in free agency: Rick Nash

16 reactions 5% 53% 42%

George McPhee's strategic moves help Vegas reach Cup Final

1 reactions

How Lightning keep coming up just short

23 reactions 5% 80% 15%

Top Gut Doctor: "I Beg Everyone To Quit 3 Foods"

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PHT's Three Stars: Burakovsky's goals push Capitals into Stanley Cup Final

1 reactions

"Trump's son should be concerned": FBI obtained wiretaps of Putin ally who met with Trump Jr.

3,715 reactions 4% 72% 24%



There's a home theater with room for six on the second floor. An expansive veranda overlooks the heated Pebble Tec pool and spa, 168 feet of waterfront, and dock with boatlift. On the ground floor, there's a covered patio with permanent outdoor kitchen. Elsewhere in the house, there's an office with built-in bookcases, family room with stone fireplace, and game room.

Patio and outdoor kitchen
realtor.com

The home was built by Tampa-based Boss & Mennie Luxury Home Builders. Yzerman purchased the home in 2010 for \$2.43 million.

The Davis Islands neighborhood is home to a small municipal airport and the Davis Island Yacht Club. There are no traffic lights in the neighborhood.

Yzerman, 51, was drafted by the Red Wings in 1983, while he was still a teenager. He became the team captain in his third season, at the age of 21. He remained captain until retiring in 2006, appearing on the ice as a captain for more than 1,300 games.

The post [Hockey Legend and Tampa Bay Lightning GM Steve Yzerman Selling in Tampa](#) appeared first on [Real Estate News and Advice - realtor.com](#).

27 reactions 10% 82% 8%

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David 2 years ago
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LIVING SHARE ↗

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO ATTEND W HOTEL'S NEW INVITE-ONLY DINNER PARTY FOR CREATIVES

It's where the best conversations happen. In collaboration with [W Hotels](#).

By: [Noah Lehava](#)

Photography: [Alec Kugler](#)

In the name of breaking the proverbial ice, we love to ask the question: What's your dream dinner party guest list? You'd be surprised how much you can learn about a person based on who they'd love to converse with over a branzino and glass of merlot. But when it came to asking ourselves what a dream dinner party would look like, W Hotels answered it for us. You see, they launched their Insider Collective dinner series, an invite-only event which brings together influential people to eat delicious meals and create a connection between the hotel and the local community. They let us put together our dream dinner party IRL to kick things off.

Picture this: all of [South Florida's](#) creatives in fashion, photography, and design, dining on Mexican fare from the soon-to-be-opened El Vez, set on the backdrop of the brand-spankin'-new \$55 million renovation of W Hotel Fort Lauderdale. The likes of Andrea and Amy Fernandez (jewelry designers of Aman Jewels), Miami Dolphins' Reshad Jones, and stylist [Lara Estefan Coppola](#) schmoozed the night away. We eavesdropped and interrupted for some one-on-one time with a few of them before everyone grabbed their [Haerfest](#) hand-painted passport cases by Logan Real and called it a night.

ANDREA AND AMY FERNANDEZ

DESIGNERS, AMAN JEWELS





Favorite place to travel for inspiration:

Amy: "Amalfi Coast. Its colors, textures, and nature; the sea, flowers, and porcelain goods are a primary source of inspiration for Aman Jewels' collections."

Andrea: "For me, it's Mexico City. The juxtaposition of urbanism and traditional architecture, the vibrant colors, and the fearless women."

What's your secret talent?

Amy: "Cooking without recipes. Everything turns out delicious!"

Andrea: "Writing fiction."

LARA ESTEFAN COPPOLA

STYLIST





How do you describe Florida style?

“Forever Gianni!”

What is your dream room service order?

“Is there really anything better than a room service burger?”

Three words to describe W Hotels:

“Chic, stylish, and beautiful!”

DANIÉ GOMEZ-ORTIGOZA

@JOURNEYOFABRAID





How do you describe Florida style?

“Floridian style is going through an evolution, and it’s chameleonic. If you are close to the beach during the day, expect flip-flops and t-shirts. As you dig deeper into the different cities, there’s an eclectic elegance, and yet, when the night comes, expect lots of glamour.”

How do you describe the connection between travel and creativity?

“Travel is the biggest fuel for creativity; it opens up your mind to all the possibilities of life. There’s nothing more enriching than exposing yourself to different colors, smells, and ideas. It forces you to step out of your comfort zone and imagine new possibilities.”

AJA BUTLER BURNS

JEWELRY DESIGNER





Favorite taboo dinner party topic?

“I usually end up talking about becoming vegan. I don't like to bring the mood down, but I'm also super passionate about it, so I try to read the room.”

Favorite thing to do during a hotel staycation?

“Get a massage! And lounge in the cushy robes.”

YSA PEREZ

PHOTOGRAPHER





How do you describe the connection between travel and creativity?

“I often travel alone, and when I do, I’m inspired by my own independence to survive on my own. I feel anything is possible.”

What’s your dream travel destination?

“Japan. I went 11 years ago, when I was in college, and can’t remember much about it. I’d love to revisit.”

Favorite thing to do during a hotel staycation?

“Lay in bed. I travel so much, when I’m at a hotel, I like to reap the benefits: bath, room service, the works.”



1 / 9 Reshad Jones



Every W Hotel has a W Insider on staff whose job is to connect the dots between the hotel and the local scene, so remember to consult them during your next trip.

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Blinds of all kinds_2018

HGTV Comes to Town



The "Dream Home 2016" is located on Merritt Island

Last summer, architects, contractors and designers worked on an incredible home transformation on Merritt Island to bring fans of HGTV the first ever HGTV Dream Home Giveaway renovation. Previously, homes were originally built for the giveaway but this complete renovation is more in line with what fans see on the TV network.

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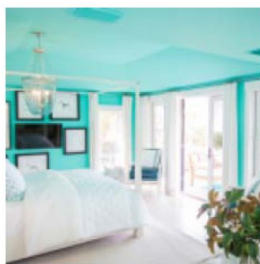
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 Discover topics & tool kits by the experts, along with videos from parents discussing their challenges and successes dealing with autism.

Now completed, the waterfront property, situated on the Indian River Lagoon with Intracoastal Waterway access, is a renewed take on Floridian style with a clever play on classic coastal. With approximately 3,150 square-feet of living space, including three bedrooms and five bathrooms, the home blends the sophistication of The Hamptons with punches of tropical vibrancy. The light and bright paradise is built for entertaining and relaxing by the water, complete with a private pool and a three-car garage.

Architect Michael Stauffer and builder Steven Price of Steven W. Price Construction, transformed the existing home into a dream residence with ideas and trends that can be used in any home. Interior designer Brian Patrick Flynn restored a hidden gem into a one-of-a-kind coastal getaway.

- The open-concept floor plan provides ample space for entertaining
- The waterfront home is nestled on the Indian River with its own private boat dock
- A private pool, three-car garage and “doggy dream house” add a touch of luxury
- Master suite includes spacious bathroom, walk-in closet and balcony overlooking the water
- The renovation takes full advantage of year-round indoor/outdoor living

The Glidden paint brand offered Brian the inspiration needed to develop a coastal-inspired color palette. Featuring pairings of bright, beachy hues and shades, the home displays more than 12 Glidden paint colors. Brian created a fresh, breezy, inviting look using Ethan Allen furniture accessories.



Master Bedroom

There’s no denying the appeal of a cheery teal paint color. It’s balanced here in the master bedroom with whitewashed floors and crisp white furnishings. A hand-beaded chandelier makes a design statement,

while a collage of black and white artwork adds depth and dimension. The effect is described as a “sexy glamorous space.”



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Living Room

The living room's palette of washed blues, greens, and grays is in sync with its stunning seaside views. Refined yet casual sofas and chairs, steel and glass tables, and a trio of iron cage chandeliers give it a fresh,

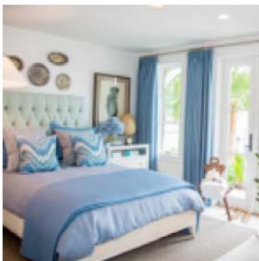
modern edge.



Dining Room

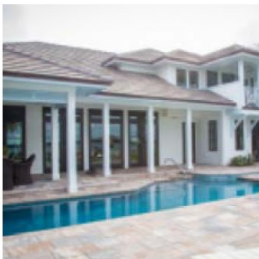
The dining room plays on daylight in an airy way with white-on-white furnishings. A trio of industrial-inspired pendants, hung over a distressed farmhouse table and slipcovered chairs, create a modern

rustic look.



Guest Room

A tufted mineral blue headboard mingled with classic styles in shades of teal, navy and white turns the guest bedroom into a glamorous seaside retreat.



Pool/Deck

The deck uses Trex Transcend decking in a vibrant "Spiced Rum" color. The composite decking material stands up to the wet, unpredictable weather and is made with 95 percent recycled wood and

plastic.

The grand prize winner of this spectacular giveaway will receive the fully furnished home, a 2016 GMC Acadia Denali, \$250,000 from national mortgage lender Quicken Loans, plus a beautiful new boat for the property's private boat dock with covered slip. Visit Hgtv.com/design/hgtv-dream-home for more photos and video.

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SARASOTA



SUNSHINE AND DARKNESS

Is Michael Barfield a Crusader or a Con Man?

The complicated case of our city's most controversial figure.

By [Tony D'Souza](#) • 3/1/2016 at 5:00am • Published in the [March 2016](#) issue of *Sarasota Magazine*

226

ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 29, 1983, Michael Barfield was on a bus traveling north of Gainesville, alone and with no idea where he was going. The 21-year-old, then serving a three-year sentence for grand larceny at Baker Correctional Institution in Sanderson, had spent part of the previous month being interrogated by officials from the FBI and the Office of Naval Intelligence. The bus belonged to the Florida Department of Corrections, and Barfield did, too.

A year earlier, the Pensacola native had been arrested multiple times for a number of felonies in and around his hometown, including car theft, burglary, check forging and credit card fraud. He had a baby boy he'd never seen and whom he'd fathered with a girl he hardly knew, an 18-year-old he'd met on the boardwalk in Virginia Beach, Va., while vacationing two years earlier. His father, a Monsanto chemical plant line worker, and his mother, who worked for the Escambia County School Board in food service administration, were law-abiding people. They couldn't have imagined this outcome for the youngest of their four children.

Barfield would soon learn his destination: Florida State Prison's notorious Q Wing in Bradford County. His time there would scar and shape the rest of his life.

"I had done something wrong," said Barfield recently from behind the desk of his downtown Sarasota office. Now 53, Barfield is slender, with graying hair, and chooses his words carefully. "But I hadn't done anything so wrong [as] to warrant what would happen to me."

Although he'd been convicted of grand larceny for passing bad checks, Barfield had also been granted youthful offender status, which should have prevented his transfer to an adult facility, especially to the most secure one in the state. But that is where he was taken, to solitary confinement on the death row wing, the same wing that provided a home for Old Sparky, the electric chair, as well as those who were led to it, serial killers like Ted Bundy. By the end of August, 5-foot-10-inch Barfield says he was so stressed he'd lost 14 pounds, and he was transferred to a Q Wing infirmary.

According to his testimony in a suit he filed against the Department of Corrections in 1986, Barfield was subjected to myriad tortures in the weeks before being moved to the infirmary. Guards flicked the lights off and on in his cell, taunting him about an impending visit to Old Sparky. Once they entered the cell threatening to cut his hair in preparation for electrocution, even as he screamed and kicked at them from under his bed. Worst of all, Barfield testified, a prisoner assigned to mopping duty regularly let himself into Barfield's cell with a key, beating and raping him. Barfield says he repeatedly reported the abuse and asked for a lawyer, but nothing was done.

Prison officials later denied Barfield's abuse allegations, although they admitted he had been sent to isolation on death row. That decision had been made in conjunction with the FBI after Barfield had claimed, while at Baker Correctional Institution, that he'd been called by a "foreign agent" seeking sensitive information he'd been privy to while in the Navy. By the time a court ruled in 1988 that his transfer to death row had not been improper, Barfield, who'd already spent much of his prison time teaching himself the law and rules of civil procedure, knew that he could take his case to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

This he did in 1989, conducting his own oral arguments—an unusual achievement for someone who is not a lawyer—and winning a retrial. The case was ultimately settled, and although the appeals court ruled the transfer to death row was improper, neither the Department of Corrections nor the FBI ever admitted wrongdoing.

In the decades since, questions about Michael Barfield have persisted, and not only about what happened to him in prison all those years ago. After his release, he committed more crimes and spent years in other prisons. But he never stopped studying the law. Today, in addition to being the vice president of the Florida ACLU, Barfield has become, arguably, the most powerful paralegal in the state. (He does not have a law degree and his prior convictions prevent him from becoming a lawyer of the Florida Bar.) He is a widely recognized legal expert in public records and Sunshine laws whose work on behalf of various attorneys—most notably Sarasota’s Andrea Mogensen—has been called heroic by advocates of government accountability. Others, including Barfield’s many enemies, hold a different view.

“Why are you doing an article on Michael Barfield?” asks one Sarasota attorney close to city politics. “He’s a liar and felon who terrifies people. I hope you are not going to aggrandize him.”

“He’s a piranha working with a lawyer who has no sense of ethics,” says retired criminal court judge Frank Brenner. “His downfall will only come when the way he’s ripping off the city leads to a public uproar.”

Much of the anger of his detractors—including MichaelBarfield.net, an anonymously run website that constantly pillories him—stems from costly lawsuits that Barfield and Mogensen have filed against numerous government entities and officials, many of them on behalf of the activist group Citizens for Sunshine. At the eye of the storm are Florida’s 1909 Public Records law and 1967 Government-in-the-Sunshine law. Together, they mandate public access to most records created by governing bodies. They also require that any governing board with the power to make decisions give public notice of its meetings, allow the public to attend and keep minutes.

Compliance with these laws is not straightforward, especially since the Florida Legislature has created many amendments and exceptions to them. Newer technologies like emails and text messages have complicated things further. Just what constitutes a violation is rich fodder for lengthy lawsuits. Still, the laws encourage the filing of accountability suits—and provide for the awarding of attorneys’ fees—and those suits are often vigorously defended by local governments at taxpayers’ expense.

“You’ve got this very strict statute; there is no safe harbor from it,” says Sarasota attorney Morgan Bentley, who has defended the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County against two suits Barfield has helped file. “It’s like when the Americans with Disabilities Act came out [in 1990]. You’d have attorneys who would find these little motels without elevators and not in compliance, and they’d file a suit and the owners would settle and pay fees.”

To some, Barfield is just this sort of opportunist, a former criminal who uses his admittedly formidable intelligence to con the public, exploiting profitable loopholes in the law for his own gain.

To some, but not all.

“Michael’s amazingly brilliant and committed to open access to public records and good government,” says Tampa-based First Amendment attorney Gregg Thomas. “The fact that he has a criminal conviction has no bearing on [the merits of his lawsuits]. That’s ridiculous.”

“There is no doubt there are people who would go out of their way to hurt Michael,” adds Joel Chandler, a Lakeland-based open records advocate. “People don’t like to be held accountable....Anyone involved in activism is going to be the focus of criticism.”

That opinions should remain so divided over a man who has been in the public eye for decades is intriguing, to say the least. Barfield is an object of scrutiny wherever he goes. People question his ethics, his motivations, even what he can call himself.

“[Barfield] can be referred to as paralegal, consultant, or paraprofessional,” declared Florida Circuit Judge Robert Bennett in a 2009 decision, a ruling that would seem to short-circuit the efforts of Barfield’s foes to have him censured for practicing law without a license.

“He shouldn’t be calling himself anything,” protested Brenner recently. Brenner is responsible for two of the four complaints filed against Barfield for practicing law without a license. And though all four were eventually dismissed by the Florida Bar, there are some who will always doubt Barfield’s bona fides—indeed will always doubt whether he can be more than what he once was.

“Barfield’s a con man’s con man, no question about it,” said Federal District Judge Richard Lazzara during a sentencing hearing in 1999, an assessment that dogs Barfield to this day.

LIKE A CHARACTER IN A JOHN GRISHAM LEGAL THRILLER, Barfield cuts a lean and youthful figure, dressing in a smart, casual Floridian style. He lives in Laurel Park and drives a stylish, late-model, white Thunderbird convertible. His son is now 32, and Barfield has a 17-year-old daughter, too, who lives with him every other week. Sharon Patten, the woman he met all those years ago on the Virginia Beach boardwalk, and who is now a Sarasota nurse, is the mother of both children. Barfield was 19 when he met her, newly discharged from the Navy and already in trouble with the law. During most of their children’s early years, Patten raised them alone, a consequence of Barfield’s long prison sentences. She only reconnected with him in the early ’90s. Soon after that, Patten left a 10-year marriage for Barfield, and the couple married in 2010; they divorced last year.

“He always kept me separate to protect me,” says Patten, referring to both Barfield’s criminal history and to his legal work. Speaking of the man she calls her soul mate, Patten adds, “I don’t want to know and I’ve always kept myself in the dark. We’d go to parties and people would say to me, ‘Do you check your car [for bombs] before you get in?’ He’s a workaholic. He’s sacrificed his family and his children. Nothing will stop Michael. He believes in what he believes. He doesn’t care what people think of him.”

“Transparency is healthy for democracy,” Barfield says. “I want citizens to be informed about what their government is up to. It’s about justice.”

Beyond his open records and Sunshine cases, Barfield has worked on civil rights and police brutality cases, often on behalf of the ACLU, cases that advocates say have righted serious wrongs. But those cases have also made him enemies among the police and governmental officials whose transgressions he has exposed.

During a single month in 2012, he and Mogensen filed three lawsuits on behalf of Chris Young, an Occupy protestor arrested for writing political slogans in chalk in Five Points Park; Darren Kersey, a homeless man arrested for charging his cell phone in Gillespie Park; and Jason Dragash, who was beaten unconscious by police at downtown Sarasota’s Ivory Lounge.

After Barfield sued for the release of two videos of the Dragash incident, an officer, Scott Patrick, was fired by the city for excessive force. (Patrick claimed wrongful termination and was reinstated with back pay by an arbitrator in 2014.)

Another Barfield records request, also in 2012, turned up messages between police officers about what they termed “bum-hunting” for homeless people, messages that were widely reported in the press; and in 2014, Barfield requested the names of two North Port police officers put on administrative leave after they were accused of handcuffing, stripping and sexually assaulting a woman at a party. The city sued Barfield in that case, a move seen as a preemptive attempt to keep the names of the police officers from being disclosed. The suit was eventually dismissed, and the officers, Ricky Urbina and Melanie Turner, were named. Urbina killed himself before he could be arrested; Turner resigned, and the State Attorney’s Office declined to prosecute her due to lack of evidence.

Barfield’s advocacy on behalf of victims of police brutality began in the ’90s, while he was living in West Palm Beach. From 1990 to 1992, he worked on the civil suit filed on behalf of Bobby Jewett, a 34-year-old drug addict who lived with his schoolteacher mother. After being arrested for hitchhiking, Jewett was beaten to death while in police custody, a killing that ignited major protests against police. Though the officers involved were acquitted of murder, the city of West Palm Beach settled the case brought by Jewett’s mother for \$1.25 million.

West Palm Beach is also where Barfield began his ACLU work, assisting lawyers for the organization who were defending Jennifer Johnson, a 26-year-old drug addict convicted in state court of delivering cocaine to her two newborn children, born a year apart, through her umbilical cord. The controversial conviction was overturned in 1992 by the Florida Supreme Court.

He also worked on the Pottinger case, a decade-long Miami case that reached settlement in 1998 and helped decide how municipalities may police the homeless. The precedent Pottinger established is at the heart of Sarasota’s own current battle over a homeless shelter; it advises that unless a city provides shelter beds, the homeless cannot be arrested for sleeping outside.

The Jewett case won him the attention and admiration of civil rights advocates, but it made him persona non grata among many police officers and civic officials. When Barfield alluded to traffic-ticket fixing at the West Palm Beach courthouse during a 1993 radio appearance, courthouse administrator Susan Ferrante responded by filing a civil slander case against him. Her case was dismissed but led to an investigation of ticket fixing that validated Barfield's accusation and ended with several West Palm Beach officials forced to resign.

By 1994, West Palm Beach officials had had enough of Michael Barfield. According to government documents in another Barfield lawsuit, West Palm Beach police attempted to snare him in a sting involving the illicit sale of private donor records from the Police Benevolent Association. Barfield didn't show up to make the buy. Instead, he counter-attacked, suing for the association's records—resulting in embarrassing revelations that donations had been used for parties and to pay for the defense of police accused of abuse.

BARFIELD MOVED TO SARASOTA IN 1996, after having lunch on St. Armands and being impressed with the city, he says. While he was known for his police brutality and ACLU work in West Palm Beach, in Sarasota, it's his Sunshine and open records work that has made him notorious.

"Michael has two very different roles," says a Sarasota public official who requested anonymity because he was the past focus of a Barfield suit. "One is his work with Sunshine lawsuits. Sunshine is a well-intentioned law that becomes a tool of leverage and intimidation for those looking to advance political agendas. Michael has perfected that more than anyone else. His other role is with the ACLU and issues like the homeless. There's a good and bad side of Michael Barfield."

In 2007, Barfield began working with Mogensen. Since then, his name or legal research has been attached to public records and Sunshine lawsuits against the City of Sarasota, Sarasota city commissioners, the Sarasota Police Department, the Sarasota police chief, a public arts steering committee, the Downtown Improvement District, the Homeless Advisory Task Force, the Police Advisory Panel, the Sarasota County Commission, Sarasota County commissioners, the Manatee School District, the Manatee County School Board and the cities of North Port, Anna Maria and Venice. In addition to the costs, those suits have cast a glaring spotlight on many officials and citizens, who often find themselves enmeshed in complex and time-consuming legal battles over laws they claim they don't understand and never intended to break.

Mogensen says that she and Barfield have "six to 12 [lawsuits] going at all times" and win or settle 90 percent of them. Since 2009, those suits have cost the region's taxpayers \$4 million in fines, settlements, court costs and attorneys' fees.

"[These suits] are not about the money," insists Barfield. "It's the satisfaction of achieving justice and winning."

There's no question that Barfield loves to win. No battle is too small for him to wade into, and he's a relentless fighter who loves to taunt—and punish—his opponents. Indeed, he seems to relish the enmity he creates. "It's all

sour grapes,” he says of his detractors. “They take it personally that a convicted felon beats them in a court of law—they and the best attorneys that they can hire at taxpayer expense.”

He frequents news websites and responds to his attackers on message boards.

After Frank Brenner’s second complaint against him for practicing law without a license was dismissed, Barfield emailed him: “Hi Frank: I wanted to pass along more good news. The Florida Bar dismissed your most recent complaint filed against me. Hope to see you soon! Michael Barfield, Legal Consultant.”

In 2014, when downtown business owner Ron Soto of Soto’s Optical put up signs on Main Street asking visitors not to give in to panhandling, Barfield put up his own signs urging people not to spend their money downtown. City attorneys spent six months last year rewriting the downtown sign ordinance, knowing that Barfield would likely pounce on any perceived infringement of his First Amendment rights. (Soto also filed an unlicensed-to-practice-law complaint against Barfield that was dismissed by the Bar last year, and at press time had a complaint for “aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of law” pending against Mogensen.)

Barfield’s Internet posts and the skirmish over downtown signage have infuriated his opponents; over the years, some have suffered more serious consequences.

In the 1992 race for West Palm Beach state attorney, Barry Krischer, the defense lawyer who had won the acquittal of the officers in the Bobby Jewett killing, was running against the incumbent in a hotly contested election. One month before voters went to the polls, Krischer was hit with a sexual harassment lawsuit by his former legal secretary. Krischer claimed the suit was a political move, and Barfield, while not admitting a direct role in it, doesn’t deny he was close to the case.

“I was aware Krischer was running,” Barfield says, with a mischievous grin. “[The secretary] was working in the office I was working in at the time. She told me about [the sexual harassment] and I said, ‘You need to find an attorney.’”

Krischer won the seat anyway, and the sexual harassment case against him was dismissed in 1993.

BARFIELD’S TRANSFER TO DEATH ROW BACK IN 1983, like so much of his life, is rich with drama and raises unanswered questions. When Barfield claimed at Baker Correctional that he had been contacted by a foreign agent, he said the agent had located him through a girlfriend he’d met during his two-year stint in the Navy, when he worked as an aerographer’s mate on the USS America aircraft carrier and had access to radar and weapons systems. After investigating Barfield’s spy claims, FBI special agent Doug Jones told prison officials that Barfield knew enough to pose a national security risk, which is what led to his Q Wing transfer.

By the time he was transferred to another prison after a month on death row, Barfield says he was so outraged at the way he'd been treated that he began poring over law books in the library and filing multiple lawsuits on behalf of himself and other prisoners. Then, in 1985, he went on the lam while on a prison work release program; he was apprehended and an additional 12 years were added to his sentence.

In 1986, Barfield filed suit against the Florida Department of Corrections for putting him on death row and for the abuse he said he suffered while there.

Tom Lyons, who was then a reporter at the *Gainesville Sun Sentinel*, wrote a front-page story for the paper. The *Orlando Sentinel* reported that Jones now believed Barfield fabricated the spy story, inspired by a novel titled *Operation Lemonade*. Although there's apparently no novel by that name, Operation Lemon-Aid was a real 1977 FBI sting, in which a naval officer posed as a mole to catch Soviet spies; the episode was turned into a TV film. The former girlfriend, a naval officer, also told the press Barfield had made up the story.

The press coverage of his experience on Q Wing attracted the attention of Orlando attorney Lee Barrett, who took an interest in Barfield's case and helped him get his additional 12-year sentence reduced. By 1989, Barfield was out of prison, living in Orlando and working as a paralegal at Barrett's firm.

"Michael was a brilliant jailhouse lawyer, one of the best I've seen," says Barrett. "You get one of these guys a week. Usually [their legal writing] reads like somebody with a sixth-grade education. Frankly, Michael's like a Shakespearean character with a tragic flaw, an incredible guy who has made terrible choices."

One of those choices occurred in West Palm Beach, at the same time Barfield was earning a reputation for crusading against police corruption. In 1995, he was arrested and charged with grand larceny, fraud and unlicensed practice of law for withholding \$2,000 from a client. He filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy the following year—"I am not the world's best manager of finances," he says—and, with the criminal case pending, moved to Sarasota. In early 1997, Barfield pled guilty to grand theft and was sentenced to two years of house arrest in Sarasota.

"Banishment Ends Tiff With Police, Prosecutors" read the headline in Palm Beach's *Sun Sentinel*, a misleading one in Barfield's view. "[There was] no court order [of banishment]," he says. "[That comes from] the media." Nevertheless, the headline follows him to this day, as his enemies often cite his "banishment."

Barfield, then 36, would soon break the law again, a decision that would prove disastrous, and not only for him. In 1999, while working on a public funds embezzlement case involving developer Carl Bailey and corrupt officials at the Cape Coral Hospital, he was indicted for lying to a grand jury.

During the case, Barfield saw an affidavit stating that the judge in the case, U.S. District Judge Lee Gagliardi, and federal prosecutor Kathleen Haley had improperly met at the Plum Café near Fort Myers in 1997 to discuss Bailey's prosecution. The accusation was made by two private investigators; Barfield later admitted he knew at the time it was false. As a result, the judge and prosecutor were dismissed from the case, and the incident clouded their

reputations. Gagliardi, who until then had enjoyed a distinguished career, died in 1998 before his name could be cleared.

After the two private investigators admitted their allegations were false, Barfield briefly went on the run. (His ex-wife Sharon says she had been unaware of any problem until he came home one night, packed his bags and told her he was in trouble and had to go.) He was arrested in Nashville in January 1999. He spent the next six years in federal prisons in Marianna, Fla., and Edgefield, S.C.

“I should have told the truth when I got called before the grand jury,” says Barfield now. “I learned that [the affidavit] was not true and I didn’t say anything. [I rationalized] that it was someone else’s lie and not mine.”

That wasn’t all he came to regret. “[Prison] was harder [the second time],” Barfield says. “My daughter was very young. My son was 15; he was disappointed. There was a lot of guilt about that. It was very, very hard. Much harder. I [did] the only thing I know how to do. I trained myself even more, reading [the law]. I became the head law clerk at the prison.”

And something else happened too, Barfield recalls. Something fundamental changed in him.

He had always behaved as if he could outsmart anyone and anything, whether an opponent in a case or the legal system itself. At last, however, he began to recognize the consequences of his behavior. “It didn’t come in one lightning moment,” Barfield says. “But I decided I had to play within the rules and that I could play within the rules and that I must play within them. I was only hurting myself in not doing so.”

BARFIELD FINISHED HIS FEDERAL PRISON SENTENCE IN 2005 and has not had any arrests since then. Instead, he began working with Mogensen and dedicated himself to open-records work. In 2009, the two won a \$1.5 million settlement from the City of Venice over improper use of personal email by elected officials. The case has been seen as a harbinger of the Hillary Clinton email scandal. The settlement is the largest ever awarded in the history of Florida public records and Sunshine lawsuits, and Mogensen’s and Barfield’s fees accounted for nearly half that amount.

Last year, a case brought by Mogensen and settled by Florida Gov. Rick Scott over his behind-closed-doors firing of Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey brought the pair statewide attention; Scott and his cabinet paid Mogensen \$55,000. A case filed in October 2015 against the City of Sarasota on behalf of six homeless people will challenge the city’s outdoor lodging ordinance and focus on what’s been the most controversial issue of recent years: a homeless shelter. And a case against city commissioner Susan Chapman, which may be the most divisive and talked-about yet, will likely be heard later this year.

THE CITIZENS FOR SUNSHINE SUIT AGAINST CHAPMAN alleges that she, city commissioner Suzanne Atwell, city manager Tom Barwin, and business and police officials held an out-of-the sunshine meeting at

downtown's Tsunami restaurant in October 2013 to discuss the city's homeless problem. As members of a governing board, if Chapman and Atwell participated in any discussions at that meeting, they would be in clear violation of the Sunshine law, since notice of the meeting was not given to the public. Chapman has said she was only at the meeting to listen and she did not discuss anything.

Former city charter review board member Gretchen Serrie is among the dozens of witnesses Mogenson has deposed so far. "It was amazing to be subpoenaed for a huge amount of emails, all my phone calls," says Serrie. "It's a tremendous amount of work. Michael has taken [the Sunshine law] farther than it was intended. Everybody feels very worried every time you send an email. It's harassment of innocent citizens."

Serrie says that last year she sorted through all the Sunshine cases compiled on the University of Florida's Brechner Center for Freedom of Information database; Sarasota had not had a single case until Barfield and Mogensen began filing them in 2008. A similar search through the database shows that after that, cases against the City of Sarasota and surrounding communities appear regularly. Only a handful of other cities and counties appear at all.

Atwell quickly agreed to settle her suit for a \$500 donation to Jewish Family and Children's Services, and with no admission of guilt. The case cost the city approximately \$17,000 in legal fees.

"People said, 'Why did you give in?'" recalls Atwell. "I was being pragmatic. I'm in charge of your taxpayer dollars. You will not slay that dragon. You might wound [Barfield], but you will not slay him, even if you win the case."

Chapman had the opportunity to make a similar settlement, but she chose to fight. Her current legal bills are now estimated at more than \$250,000, all to be paid by the city. Should Mogensen and Barfield prevail, they could be awarded legal fees on top of that—possibly even more than in the record-setting Venice case. At that time, Mogensen was awarded \$300 per hour for 812 hours of work (\$243,600); Barfield was awarded \$120 for 834 hours (\$100,080). According to Barfield, the Chapman case has already required "more hours than the Venice case. Well over 1,000 hours, I'm sure." He also recently raised his hourly fee to \$175.

"I'm a big supporter of the Sunshine law," Chapman says about her decision to continue fighting the case. "[Barfield is] extending the Sunshine law to prevent commissioners from listening to constituents. You have to be able to listen to constituents. We were listening to people complain; no planning was discussed, no conversation. I've been pilloried in the press. It never ends with [him]. You have to draw a line."

"All the complaining about Sunshine cases is absurd," counters Mogensen. "All you have to do is [give] notice [of the meeting] to the public, let the public in if they want to come in, and take minutes. They are very easy things to do."

“I don’t know what happened in that room,” says former County Commissioner Joseph Barbetta about Chapman’s case. “But when you are offered what she was offered [to settle]—\$500 to charity, no admission of guilt, Sunshine training—that’s a no-brainer [and] best for the taxpayers.”

Barbetta and his fellow county commissioner, Paul Caragiulo, are friendly with Barfield. The three, who county insiders sometimes call the “Three Musketeers,” often get together for dinner and wide-ranging discussions. Both Barbetta and Caragiulo have expressed frustration with the City of Sarasota’s failure to build a homeless shelter—a shelter Barfield supports and Chapman adamantly opposes—and the county and the city are at increasingly bitter loggerheads over the issue. Sarasota City attorney Robert Fournier is among those who believe the lawsuit against Chapman is politically motivated.

“This lawsuit is not about protecting anyone’s constitutional rights,” Fournier told the City Commission in October. “It’s about furthering the political agenda of Michael Barfield.”

THE STAKES FOR CHAPMAN ARE HIGH. A fight with Barfield can end a political career.

“Michael’s not just a political tool,” says Anna Maria restaurateur Ed Chiles. “He’s a political hammer.”

Chiles hired Barfield and Mogensen in 2010, when Chiles suspected Anna Maria City Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus and others of colluding to block a redevelopment project in which he had heavily invested.

“We’d asked the city if they wanted to do the Pine Avenue Restoration [project] and they said, ‘yes,’” recalls Chiles. “We were four buildings into it when everything changed. We were at tremendous risk, millions of dollars at stake. We thought we knew [there was secret collusion] and they said, ‘No, no, no. Here’s our emails, all 11 of them.’ [After the suit was filed] 1,100 emails came to the surface. Public records and government in the sunshine make sure it’s a fair game. Michael is as competent at it as anyone I’ve ever seen.”

City voters narrowly recalled Stoltzfus in September of that year and the project went forward. Stoltzfus did not return a request for comment.

Attorney Bill Yanger, who covered the Stoltzfus suit for his blog, Our Anna Maria, does not share Chiles’ admiration for Barfield. “It was dirty politics and it worked,” he says. “They found the meanest, nastiest guy who played the meanest, dirtiest tricks. [Bringing in Barfield] was a decision to play hardball.”

“Trying to intimidate me is probably the worst thing someone can do because I don’t have any fear that what I am doing is wrong,” Barfield says. “People are going to have to accept and deal with me. I’m not going away.”

Whatever happens in the Chapman case, the outcome will almost certainly enrage Michael Barfield’s enemies and galvanize his supporters. For some the verdict will represent the latest chapter in his career as a valiant crusader for

the public good. For others, it will be yet another sorry episode in the life of a ruthless con man. Barfield is not the sort to inspire finely shaded opinions. People see him in black and white, like a Rorschach test.

“He’s brought some good things and he’s brought some bad things,” says one local official. “You have to make up your own mind about him.”

Contributing editor and investigative journalist Tony D’Souza won a first-place “Charlie” award for Best Public Service coverage from the Florida Magazine Association for “Going Nowhere,” a report on Sarasota’s homeless issue, in our January 2015 issue.

Opening photo by Fred Lopez

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[Michael Barfield](#)

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Eat & Drink 



Karl Lagerfeld To Design Luxury Lobbies For Miami Condos

Rumors that Karl Lagerfeld is winding down his career have now been put to rest with the announcement that he is, in fact, taking on even more projects. In addition to his work for Chanel, Fendi, and his own label, Lagerfeld will be delving into the world of interior design with his first residential project in the United States. The fashion icon will be working on the lobbies for the Estates at Acqualina, luxury condos in Miami.



In a press release, Lagerfeld expressed his excitement at being able to design these important communal spaces. "I am excited by the opportunity to design the lobbies of The Estates at Acqualina and take great pride in knowing that the spaces I create will be such important spaces in the building. Not only are they significant because they offer the first impression of the building, they are also the spaces where people come to socialize daily; they are like a common living room." Details on the designs themselves are vague at the moment, but Lagerfeld intends to pay homage to the warmth and vitality of Miami and make sure that lobbies express the best of Floridian luxury living.

The Estates at Acqualina are slated for completion in 2020. Units are currently priced between \$3.9 and \$9 million.

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Sondheim's Road Show at Signature Theatre (review)

February 24, 2016 by [Alan Katz \(https://dctheatrescene.com/author/alan-katz/\)](https://dctheatrescene.com/author/alan-katz/)

There are some historical characters that cry out for animation on the stage. Stephen Sondheim has fixated on a pair of them in his meandering travelogue *Road Show*, a historical biographical musical set in the first half of the 20th century.

The pair of characters are brothers, Addison and Wilson Mizner, whose wildly swinging ups and downs of con artistry from chasing gold in the Yukon to tempting big spenders into real estate development hell form the spine of the play.

[Sondheim talks with us about *Road Show* \(https://dctheatrescene.com/2016/02/09/stephen-sondheim-talks-about-road-show/\)](https://dctheatrescene.com/2016/02/09/stephen-sondheim-talks-about-road-show/)

Road Show still bears the scars of its own development hell, having been reworked by Sondheim and librettist John Weidman for 10+ years. In fact, you may have seen the previous iteration of *Road Show* as *Bounce* in 2003 at the Kennedy Center where its lack of success lead to revision and reconstitution into its present form, now playing under the direction of Gary Griffin at Shirlington's Signature Theatre.

And, much like a dough that has been worked and reworked (and possibly overworked), *Road Show* is uneven, containing leavened pockets of traditionally brilliant and cheeky classic Sondheim interspersed with some dense, tough scenes that lack flavor and depth. The challenges this musical faces are great, and while Signature's production captures the joy of the uniqueness of the play, not all of those challenges have been surmounted.



(l-r) Josh Lamon (Addison Mizner), Sherri Edelen (Mama Mizner) and Noah Racey (Wilson Mizner) in *Road Show* at Signature Theatre. (Photo: Margot Schulman)

The first and perhaps most obvious challenge lead characters themselves. *Road Show* follows Addison Mizner (given life in a heartfelt performance by Josh Lamon) as a protagonist, through his estrangement from his family, his worldwide travels, and his eventual discovery of his call as an architect. What is curious about this lead is that he is a sad sack, not only stalked by failure and lacking direction but also moping from place to place and while the sad sack character type is common in musicals, he or she is rarely cast as the lead.

[We talk with *Road Show* stars Josh Lamon and Noah Racey](https://dctheatrescene.com/2016/02/18/josh-lamon-noah-racey-play-mizner-brothers-in-sondheims-road-show/)
(<https://dctheatrescene.com/2016/02/18/josh-lamon-noah-racey-play-mizner-brothers-in-sondheims-road-show/>)

The antagonist, Wilson Mizner (wryly played by Noah Racey), would be a much more typical musical lead, full of bravado and spunk, but the character is as sympathetic as Ayn Rand. This difference creates an interesting tension as their cycles of contention and cooperation drive the conflict of the play, but the result is the audience is made to root for (Addison's victory) turns out to be destructive to Addison's own characterization. While Addison gets a beautiful love story with investor and boyish charmer Hollis Bessamer (who's given a nice combination of sweetness and petulance by talented local Matthew Schleigh) that results in the best moment of the whole *Road Show*, I found myself wishing that Addison would fail again and more quickly so that I could get the sad sack character back.



(l-r) Stefan Alexander Kempfski (Ensemble), Angela Miller (Ensemble), Noah Racey (Wilson Mizner), Jacob Kidder (Pianist), Bobby Smith (Ensemble), Matthew Schleigh (Ensemble) and Erin Driscoll (Ensemble) in *Road Show* at Signature Theatre. (Photo: Margot Schulman)

Another challenge of the sprawling *Road Show* is in its sprawl, covering a dozen plus locations that all have environments that are not only disparate, but crucial to the feel of the play. Here, Director Griffin has Set Designer Scott Davis create a unified wooden set with a literal map of the action as backdrop, which lights up cutely to show the current location of the action, while relying on Costume Designer Ivania Stack and on props to establish the traveling feel of this travelogue.

This challenge was generally surmounted well, especially in establishing the Floridian luxury of the second half of the production. Stack's contrasting posh white costumes and more homespun fare did wonders for establishing class, while changes to both Mizner brothers' wardrobes clearly indicated their status and feeling at any particular moment in time. Excepting some heavy-handedness in the world-traveling section, the show was brilliantly designed.

The lyrics are, as expected from a Sondheim production, smart and hilarious. It's easy to tell that these clever rhymes and powerful theatrical moments, like the quick exchanges of "Gold!" or the gorgeous sweetness of "The Best Thing That Has Ever Happened," are the reason that Weidman and Sondheim have doggedly pursued perfecting *Road Show* for more than a decade. But that wouldn't surprise any Sondheim fan.



ROAD SHOW



February 16 – March 13, 2016

Signature Theatre
4200 Campbell Avenue
Arlington, VA 22206

1 hour, 40 minutes, no intermission

Tickets: \$40 – \$87

[Website](#)

[Check for discounts](#)



(http://tracking.goldstar.com/aff_c?offer_id=24&aff_id=3201&aff_sub=108264&aff_sub4=road-show)

What might surprise you is the music. Now, the music isn't bad. It doesn't grate, and it fits well with each individual moment. The songs have variety; *Road Show* is full of familiar song types pioneered or popularized by Sondheim, like the overlapping tension-builder, the plot-advancing patter song, or the belty antagonist's song. But the music simply isn't tuneful or catchy or really memorable in any way.

After I see a musical, I'll usually walk out singing. I'll sing my favorite couple of songs in the shower (apologies for the image), and I'll look up song lyrics so I get them right and can fit them to the tune in my head. For *Road Show*, no matter how many times I looked at the lyrics or listened to Youtube videos, nothing stuck. I know that this criticism isn't quantifiable (or even qualifiable) and is entirely subjective, but, for a musical, being unable to recall fondly or even remember the music is a big problem.

It is possible that the music of *Road Show* is actually brilliant and merely hits a spot in my brain that doesn't have any grip. But combined with plotting difficulties and some character awkwardness, this musical left me less than satisfied. I'd recommend *Road Show* for the Sondheim completionist, someone that has particular affinity for the subject matter, or someone who wants to compare what they saw at the Kennedy Center in 2003 with this final product, but not for the casual theater-goer.

Road Show with Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and Book by John Weidman. Directed by Gary Griffin . Featuring Erin Driscoll, Sheri Edelen, Stefan Alexander Kempfski, Jacob Kidder, Jason J. Labrador, Josh Lamon, Jake Mahler, Dan Manning, Angela Miller, Noah Racey, Matthew Schleigh, and Bobby Smith . Set Design: Scott Davis . Costume Design: Ivania Stack . Lighting Design: Joel Shier . Sound Design: Lane Elms . Music Direction: John Kalbfleisch . Stage Manager: Kerry Epstein . Produced by Signature Theatre . Review by Alan Katz.

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About Alan Katz

Alan Katz is dramaturg, critic, epicure, and occasional director in the DC area. Alan has worked for a number of theaters and playwrights around the DC area including WSC Avant Bard, The Inkwell, the Folger Theater, and now with We Happy Few. He specializes in new play and adaptation dramaturgy, but he also reads Ancient Greek and works with Shakespeare every day as a librarian at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Alan helped create the BFA in Dramaturgy option at Carnegie Mellon and holds his MA in Theater History from Catholic University. He also excels at being a translator, poet, dog whisperer, house manager, Magic: the Gathering player, and he does the best roast chicken you've ever had in your life. Reach him at <http://www.alanjaykatz.com> or @dcdramaturg on Twitter. Want to see behind the scenes of DC theater? Want sneak peeks and instant reactions from the latest shows before all the reviews publish? Add dcdramaturg on Snapchat <https://www.snapchat.com/add/dcdramaturg>
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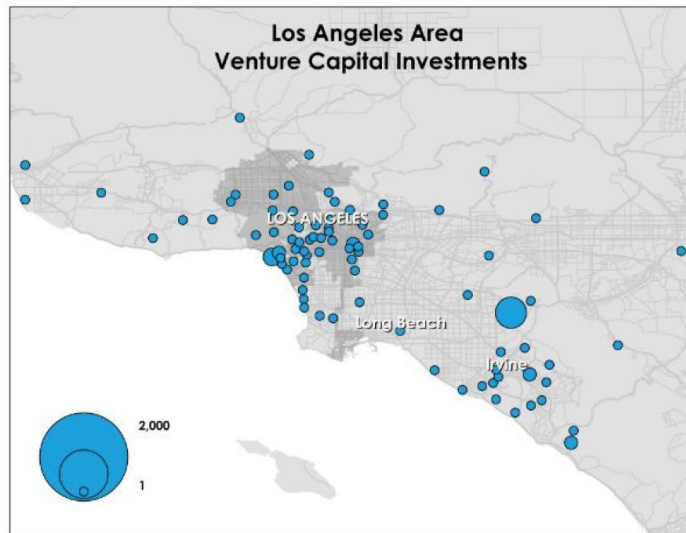
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The Tech Boom Comes to Everywhere in SoCal–But Long Beach

By Brian Addison | Aug 22, 2013 | 22



Map courtesy of Zara Matheson of the Martin Prosperity Institute.

In a brilliant [series examining venture capital \(VC\) investments](#)—money largely invested in technology-based sectors—urban guru Richard Florida has taken data from Dow Jones and broken it down in maps and context. The macro-point is—in Floridian style—quite simple: though San Francisco/San Jose still account for an enormous chunk of VC investment, said investment is spreading into urban neighborhoods.

And the data encourages me to pose a question that I seem to pose all too often: Where, oh where, is Long Beach?

As always, [the Shadow of Los Angeles paired with the White Glare of Orange County](#) proves Long Beach to be the hard-to-look at contrasted center. In this case, the shadow of West L.A.’s massive boom in VC investment—over \$450M from Santa Monica to Westwood alone—and the glare of East Anaheim’s similar boom—a staggering \$531M, the largest single core of VC investment in the entirety of Southern California.

This shift of the high-tech sector from suburban to urban is, as Florida points out, antithetical to the well-known [Brookings report](#) a decade ago which predicted jobs in that sector would reside in self-contained, high-tech suburban places like Irvine—which actually fell behind the more dense areas of San Diego, Anaheim, and L.A./Santa Monica in amount of VC investments.

So where is the LBC?



Is it at the over-\$100M with comparable cities in size–Portland, Cleveland, Denver–or industrial strength–Detroit, Baltimore, Dallas? Maybe?

Not even a tenth.

Long Beach hovers at a paltry \$9.52M in 2011, which was gathered for a *single deal*; the data was provided by Florida.

“I am not sure why Long Beach has little investment,” Florida said. “I think it has all the assets too. My hunch is that it takes more than one startup to make this happen.”

I share his confusion: For one, the growing disinterest in Irvine could be explained by its utter lack of transit and being walkable; [its Walkscore currently sits at a sad 54](#) compared to [Long Beach’s 66](#). This is, amongst young professionals, unwelcoming since where they live and work become cogs in how they happily function: driving everywhere all the time is not as jealous-inducing as someone who is able to enjoy a plethora of restaurants and take their food to a park on their lunch break without breaking a sweat.

This could partially explain downtown Santa Monica’s enormously large VC investment, which is the second-largest concentration in Southern California: [its overall Walkscore is 82](#), with its downtown core—which harvests some \$286M in VC investment monies—holding an astounding 95 (still above Long Beach’s highest-marking area, Downtown, at 89). This makes almost any point about traffic issues along Silicon Beach somewhat moot. And even more, when paired with the fact that they have a shopping district that isn’t run-of-the-mill nearby—something we all know Downtown Long Beach, probably the most viable space for a tech core if we were to have one, severely lacks—it is no wonder people want to work there as well as invest there.

This isn’t to say there haven’t been *talks* about growing Long Beach’s tech sector—often to the extent of being overtly optimistic in nature.

John Grefe of Long Beach Tech—a non-profit dedicated to encouraging profit-oriented technology startups—noted in [an op-ed introducing a techy focused column for the *Long Beach Business Journal*](#) that Long Beach has a “technology footprint [that] is growing fast.” However, his only direct proof was the mention of a mobile app developed in the Zaferia District on the East Side and mention of CSULB tech students (which doesn’t necessarily equate to tech startups right here in town).

Eric Gray followed up with [the second article in the column series](#) in a similar fashion: equally optimistic but more specific, noting cheaper rent amongst a list of other pluses.

“I believe our city is well positioned to attract a large swath of technology businesses,” he said. “Not only are we centrally located between Orange County and Los Angeles, but we boast better weather[, traffic, walkability, and transit than other competitors].”

Ultimately, this comes down to a different discussion: Addressing reasons as to why Long Beach could be a great space to harness one’s investment is a tad redundant. More than defending its capability at hosting VC investments, the question we need to address is more city-reflective than deflative: Why are we missing out on the SoCal tech boom?

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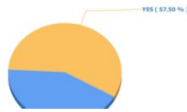
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NO	1481	42.5 %
TOTAL	3485	

Political Earthquake in Westwood



Eyes on the Street: New 7th Street Protected Lane in DTLA



Phoenix Dithers on Traffic Safety While People Die

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Great article, even though I've just come across it 3 years later.

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Long Beach: Good for Bikes, Good for Business

By Damien Newton | Aug 17, 2011

Bicycle advocates from Copenhagen to Bogota to Northeast Los Angeles have all made the case that what's good for bicycles is good for business.

Nowhere in America is that statement being put to the test more than in Long Beach. During my two bike tours of Long Beach, I talked with business owners along the [...]

Long Beach: Bike Nation Brings 10 Year, \$12 Million Investment

By Brian Addison | Aug 27, 2012

The Long Beach City Council, in a 9-0 vote, will permit Bike Nation to launch a 10-year, \$12 million bike share program in the city, thereby creating one of the largest of its kind in the state. Bike Nation, which manufactures its own GPS-equipped, airless-tires bicycles, was inspired by similar systems that developed in Europe, [...]

Long Beach: After Successful Small Projects, City Fabrick Launches and Aims for the Grand Scale

By Brian Addison | Mar 21, 2013

City Fabrick, the nonprofit urba-nerd group in Long Beach, has officially launched. And this, Long Beachers, is a good thing. The organization has no little–or amongst cities like San Francisco, New York, and even good ol' Los Angeles, not an uncommon–task: to rearrange the city's physical space to “promote progressive urban design that enhances the [...]

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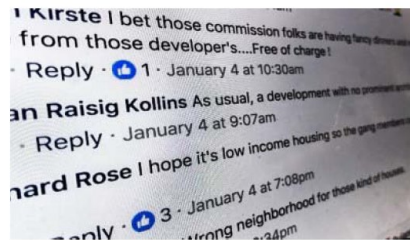
By Brian Addison | Apr 29, 2014

(This story appeared earlier today on Long Beachize. – DN) And at number three we sit. The Alliance for Biking & Walking has named Long Beach the third most bike friendly city in the States, just behind San Francisco and Austin (Tx) . The point of the report is simple: to make sure that data [...]

2012: Another Big Year for Motorized Transit in L.A.

By Dana Gabbard | Jan 4, 2012

I'm well aware this year we can look forward to all sorts of pedestrian and bike events like Ciclaviva. One way to keep tabs on these is to regularly check this blog's calendar. 2012 in Southern California is also going to be a year studded with numerous motorized transportation related events. Of course the marquee [...]



When the Wealthy and Privileged Hijack All the Narratives—Including Convincing the Poor that Housing Is Bad

By Brian Addison | Jan 12, 2017

if passed, Measure S - the "Neighborhood Integrity Initiative" - would shut down housing on practically all levels in a city that is short on housing in a county that is short on housing in a state that is short on housing

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Wyatt Koch Wiki: The Billionaire Heir Making a New Fortune Off Bold T-Shirts

By: [Dontei Wynter](#) - Published: February 15, 2018 at 1:27 pm

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From The Web

Photo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqhXEm62jZg>

Ever wonder what you would do if you were an heir to a billionaire fortune? One person who's never had to wish he could win the lottery so he could quit his job and tell off his boss is Wyatt Koch. But who is Wyatt Koch and why are we hearing his name more often? To learn more about the billionaire heir, have a look at our Wyatt Koch wiki.

Age and Early Life

Wyatt Ingraham Koch's age is 31 and is the son of William "Bill" Koch and Joan Granlund. Wyatt's father is one of the Koch brothers, along with Charles and David Koch, right-wing donors known for their wealth and influence. Wyatt's parents divorced when he was a child

and he grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut and New York. In an interview with *Palm Beach Illustrated*, he said he had "fond memories" at Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. Wyatt lives in Palm Beach, where his parents also reside, and attends several charities and galas there.

Wyatt Koch's Girlfriend

Koch was once engaged to Ivie Gabrielle Slocumb, [the](#) daughter of Tallahassee used-car dealer Charles Slocumb Sr., but the engagement was [called off](#) in May 2017. The breakup was more famous than the relationship, when the billionaire entrepreneur wanted the ring back! According to reports, it was an "8.24-carat cushion cut diamond with two tapered baguette diamonds, an Oscar Heyman that costs \$180,000." It was then reportedly worth \$250,000 by the time Koch wanted it back, including \$15,000 in damages.

The latest reports have him spotted around town in Florida with an actress/artist named Alysha Grace Marko.

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Wyatt Koch's Clothing Line

When Koch was younger, his father told him: "You can do whatever you want to in life, but just make sure you do it well and you do it with passion." They became words to live by for the young entrepreneur and before you knew it, the Wyatt Ingraham clothing line was born in 2015.

The clothing line is doing well, despite that it's not the go-to brand or style of most men. It's bold Floridian style is hard to ignore and fashion is something Koch has always been passionate about. But when your heir to an \$82.0 billion fortune, you can afford to do whatever you want and not care too much about the critics.

"Obviously these shirts are not for every person, right?," said Koch's longtime friend and Tusk Marketing executive, Annie Smith in [a GQ](#) interview.

"Not every guy is going to wear a shirt with moneybags on it, but there are so many people out there who have been looking for something like this: looking for something that's off the wall and different. We've got a lot of really positive feedback and a lot of orders."

"The new line is beautiful, the fabric, the quality is great," added Smith. "Making sure the colors were vibrant enough [was a priority] because we did go through some manufacturers where the colors were pretty dull, and that's not what he wants at all. Because the whole idea behind this line is: be bold."

For a look at Koch's collection, you head over to his website or follow him [on](#) Instagram.

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